

# Bernhard Living History

## A Parent's Guide to Success



The Bernhard Museum Complex consists of three historic structures on approximately 1.5 acres. The history of the complex mirrors the economic transitions of Placer County. The main building was constructed in 1851 during the California Gold Rush and was operated as an inn. The proprietors, George Bishop and John Long named it the "Travelers Rest."

The property transitioned from a business to a private residence and in 1868 was purchased by Bernhard Bernhard whom the property is named after.

Bernhard emigrated from Germany to Pennsylvania and later moved to St. Louis, Missouri. After hearing of the gold discovery he traveled via the Isthmus of Panama to Placer County in 1852. Like many other gold seekers he turned to a profession other than gold mining. He acquired a teaming business, transporting goods. His wife Rosa joined him in Auburn a few years later.

After purchasing the estate in 1868 Bernhard established himself as a fruit grower. Apples, pears and figs were among the many different fruits grown there. He also utilized an existing vineyard on the property to make wine and brandy. Half of the vineyard produced table grapes. He built a stone wine cellar in 1874 and added a processing building in 1881.

Grandson George Barkhaus lived in the house until his death in 1956. His brother Benjamin inherited the property and sold what remained of the parcel to the 20<sup>th</sup> Agricultural District in 1958. In 1973, Placer County negotiated for the Bernhard house as a potential museum site. Local residents raised the funds for the building's restoration, which took 10 years and \$250,000 to complete. The Museum opened to the public in 1982. The present carriage barn was added in the 1990s to house wagons and carriages owned by the Museums and the Native Sons of the Golden West.

The Bernhard Museum is open 11:00-4:00 Tuesday through Sunday. Admission is free.



### **Suggested Dress Code**

**Men and Boys:** long-sleeved cotton shirt, jeans or coveralls, suspenders and a hat

**Girls:** long-sleeved blouse, mid-calf cotton skirt, black tights, apron, and a hat/bonnet.

**Women:** long-sleeved blouse, long cotton skirt, apron, and a hat

**Adults** may also wear additional items relating to their chosen occupations

### **Where to Find Period Attire**

- Local thrift shops such as Goodwill Store and the Salvation Army.
- Parents from past classes that participated in Living History.
- Auburn, Joyce Silva of the Trumpery: (530-823-0409) \$20 adult; \$15/child. Please launder before returning.
- Roseville, Diane Wukmir: (916-300-3990) \$5-\$15 for outfit, kids, women and men.
- Sacramento, Clothes Enough Costumes (916-721-5557) [www.clothesenoughcostumes.com](http://www.clothesenoughcostumes.com).
- West Roseville, Dawn Cornsilk (916 396-4958 cell/text), [Dawn4958@yahoo.com](mailto:Dawn4958@yahoo.com). \$5-20 men, women & children. No laundering required.



An authentic lunch can be fun to prepare. Most children in 1889 brought leftovers to school--meat, cheese and fruit (Placer County grew a large variety of fruits: pears, apples, cherries, etc.). Avoid plastics and pre-packaged items; wrap foods in wax paper or a handkerchief. Some students bring their lunches in baskets, old coffee cans and handmade cloth bags. Some teachers and parents get together to provide beverages--bottled root or a large container of lemonade served in glass jars or tins cups.

## **Required Training**

All parents who plan to be on site for the field trip must be assigned to a station and are required to go through training. The easiest and most convenient way for you to train is to study our handouts and videos online. There are two parts, general information and information specific to your assigned activity:

1. For general information, study the “Living History Orientation Video” and the “Living History Parents Guide to Success” and FAQs.
2. For information specific to your assigned activity, study the video and the printed routine for your activity.



Find all [training videos and handouts online](#)



## **IN-PERSON Training**

For those who prefer on-site training, we will offer one or two during each living history season at the Bernhard Museum Complex, 291 Auburn-Folsom Road in Auburn . You need to attend only the 30-minute training specific to your assigned activity. Please check with your teacher for specific dates and times.

## **Parent Responsibilities**

1. Watch the training videos or attend on-site training.
2. Arrive early and in period clothing on tour day.
3. Help lead your assigned station, no roaming.
4. Teach the assigned activity so each child fully participates.
5. Keep each group together and engaged.
6. Escort group to next activity.
7. Help maintain the authentic living history experience (no plastic cups, no phone calls, no sandals, etc.).
8. Clean up your activity at the end of the day.

## **Rain or Shine!**

Because weather in the spring and the fall can include temperature and moisture extremes, we have set up alternative activity sites in sheltered areas around the museum grounds.

## **Interfacing with outside visitors and visiting parents**

Only parents in costume and in character may stay all day and assist as group leaders. Museum visitors may observe, but not interact with the children, except during lunch.

## **FAQ's**

Please click on the link above for **F**requently Asked **Q**uestions.